



Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project

Fall 2004

Preserving and Enhancing Freight Movement on the New SR 99

One priority of the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project has been to preserve and enhance freight mobility. Freight movement is a critical element in the health of our region's economy. That goal will be met, whichever alternative is selected, and freight will have similar access and capacity as today. Recently, the Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, and City of Seattle narrowed the range of alternatives to two: Rebuild and Tunnel. Here is how freight will be accommodated with these two alternatives compared to today.

Today (2002 traffic information):

- There are 103,000 vehicle trips on the viaduct each day, and 9,000 on surface Alaskan Way.
- Approximately 4,000 of those trips are medium and heavy-duty trucks.
- Access to Ballard and Interbay is provided via ramps at Elliott and Western Avenues.
- Of the medium and heavy-duty trucks, 2% (about 90 trucks per day) are tankers potentially carrying flammable or combustible materials.
- Freight using the viaduct travels from the Ballard Bridge to SODO in 14 minutes on average.
- Flammable (materials that release vapors at or below 100 degrees Fahrenheit) or combustible (materials that release vapors above 100 degrees Fahrenheit) liquids, or other hazardous materials, are not currently allowed in the Battery Street Tunnel at any time or on the viaduct during peak hours¹.

¹ Based on National Fire Protection Association Standard 502, current City of Seattle fire code prohibits the travel of flammable and combustible materials through the Battery Street Tunnel.

Rebuild Alternative (2030 traffic information):

- There will be 133,000 vehicle trips on the viaduct each day in the year 2030, and 10,000 on surface Alaskan Way.
- Access to Ballard and Interbay will be provided via ramps at Elliott and Western Avenues.
- Freight using the viaduct will travel from the Ballard Bridge to SODO in 15 minutes on average.
- Tankers carrying flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials, will not be allowed in the Battery Street Tunnel at any time or on the viaduct during peak hours. The hours during which tankers may use the viaduct are likely to be more restricted in the future, as peak hours of congestion grow.

Tunnel Alternative (2030 traffic information):

- There will be 122,000 vehicle trips in the tunnel each day, and 21,000 on surface Alaskan Way.
- Access to Ballard and Interbay will be provided via ramps at Elliott and Western Avenues.
- Freight using the tunnel will travel from the Ballard Bridge to SODO in 15 minutes on average.
- Tankers carrying flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials, will not be allowed in the Battery Street Tunnel or in the new tunnel at any time due to city fire code.
- Tankers carrying flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials, will use surface Alaskan Way, adding approximately 5 to 10 minutes to their trip and affecting only about 2% of the total freight





trips. Measures will be in place to ensure tankers carrying flammable or combustible liquids, or other hazardous materials, can still move through the city.

Plans Underway to Keep Freight Moving

How will freight traffic get around during construction? Whatever replaces the viaduct and seawall has to be good for our region's economy. The Federal Highway Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation and City of Seattle are working to find ways to move freight through the city during construction. The project will work with the freight community on specific strategies, such as:

- Improved signing and way finding advertising alternative routes using advanced technologies that could provide travel time information on alternative routes.
- On key designated streets, temporary and permanent physical improvements (signal priority, parking restrictions, priority lanes, etc.) could be used to provide trucks more reliability.
- Smart Work Zones that could provide real-time information to truck operations on alternate routes, delay, or other information. For example, alerts could be sent to drivers via radio, signaling construction delay and suggesting more reliable alternative routes.

For More Information

- Visit the Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/viaduct
- Call the hotline at 206-269-4421
- Send an e-mail to viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov
- Send a letter to: Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project
c/o Washington State Department of Transportation
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2424
Seattle, WA 98104

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Allison Ray by email at rayalli@wsdot.wa.gov or at (206) 382-5230. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call WA State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 711. **Title VI:** WSDOT assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex in the provision of benefits and services. For language interpretation services please contact WSDOT at (206) 382-5230. It is necessary to speak limited English so that your request can be appropriately responded to. For information on WSDOT's Title VI Program, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.